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| STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005 | | | EXAMINER WALSH, DANIEL I | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/747,673

Applicant(s)

EGAMI ET AL.

Examiner

DANIEL WALSH

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7-2-09.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6, 17, 19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6, 17, and 19-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Inventor's Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment received on 7-2-09.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 3-6, 17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda et al. (US 6,731,778) in view of Fujioka (US 7,014,105).

Re claim 3, Oda et al. teaches an ATM with a bill receptacle and a security camera that captures an image when one accesses the receptacle (FIG. 2). As the hand sensor is inside the receptacle, and trips the camera to capture the image, it is understood that the image would therefore include inside the receptacle, namely the hand location,

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which is inside the receptacle. The ATM as known in the art can be used for depositing and withdrawals.

Oda et al. teaches a bill receptacle 20, but is silent to it having a shutter. However, the Examiner notes that shutters for such bill receptacles are known in the art for additional security/protection, and therefore is an obvious expedient for such predictable results. As currency is at least deposited from rollers into the bill receptacle, as the bills come from below (as taught by Oda et al.), as per the rollers, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have a bill holder inside (below) the shutter to securely store bills.

Oda et al. teaches a security camera 17 that captures an interior of the bill receptacle when the hand is detected (shutter would therefore be open). Oda et al. is silent to the camera being positioned in the shutter. However, Oda et al. teaches that the placement of the camera 17 is so that one camera with one frame can capture an image of both the face and hands of the users to reduce complexity/cost, while also reducing image data (col 7, lines 1+ and FIG. 34-35), as opposed to having a separate camera at each body part location that is desired to be captured, as previously done. Therefore, the Examiner notes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, in light of the teachings of Oda et al. to have a separate camera in the bill receptacle to capture a picture of the hand of a user, as Oda et al. teaches that was previously done, to provide a known solution to a known problem with expected results. Therefore, both separate and single cameras have been documented as known solutions to the problem (see FIG. 34 which teaches separate cameras for hand and face images). The selection of separate/single cameras would have been well within the ordinary skill in the art, based

on desired number of images/image quality, viewpoint of the images, security concerns, backup image recording, etc. The mere duplication of essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. Therefore, merely replacing one camera to capture two body locations, with two, as previously performed, is well within the skill in the art, and alternatively replacing two cameras with one, and has also been taught as within the ordinary skill in the art for its benefits as well.

Though silent to the camera being in the bill receptacle, the Examiner notes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, to have a camera in the bill receptacle for a desired viewpoint of the image capture, having the image capture device close to the object (hand and/or money) for accuracy/security. Placement within the receptacle is an obvious expedient to have the expected results of being closer to the subject of image capture, having a wider angle range to capture because only 1 subject is to be captured, while also being harder to block and possibly more discrete an installation. As discussed above, placement of the camera is within the ordinary skill in the art.

Oda et al. teaches a single sensor 46 for detecting insertion (and subsequent image capture) of a hand into the receptacle behind the shutter, analogous to bill removal (as it is in the receptacle). However, the Examiner notes that the mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. (*St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8). Plural sensors might provide more accurate coverage, and provide reliability in that operation may still continue if one sensor is damaged, for

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example. Therefore the duplicating one sensor to include more than one is an obvious expedient for more precise detection coverage, redundancy, etc.

Oda et al. teaches the security camera captures a second image of the interior when the hand insertion is detected (via sensor 46/plurality of sensors as discussed above). This for example, could be for after the fifth step as described by Oda et al. (withdrawal of cash in a withdrawal transaction). Therefore, the Examiner has interpreted that Oda et al. teaches image capturing when the hand is inserted (which is also interpreted as when currency/bills are withdrawn). The Examiner notes that a first activation for image capture of the fifth step can be interpreted as the first image operation, as claimed (detection of the hand of the customer inserted into the bill receptacle). A subsequent image capture by the fifth step can be interpreted as the second image operation as claimed (detecting bills being taken out). The Examiner notes that Oda et al. teaches that the sensor detects hand insertion/bill removal via the sensor(s).

The claims do not recite that the first and second images are of the same customer, or during the same transaction of the same customer. Accordingly, subsequent images taken by the image capture of Oda et al. such as a first image being captured when the system senses a hand in the receptacle and that a second image can be captured in the same way, upon a subsequent transaction by the same or even a different user, as Oda et al. teaches that detection of the hand is interpreted as detection of bills taken out (when during a withdrawal transaction). As discussed above, a plurality of sensors is an obvious expedient to detect hand/bill withdrawal, where it would have been obvious for the sensors to trip when hands are inserted/bills are withdrawn. Therefore, as the claims do not recite that the first image and second image have to be of the same person or eve

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the same transaction, the Examiner has interpreted that subsequent transactions by a same or different user, which result in an image of the hand taken upon attempted withdraw of money from the ATM reads on the claim limitations. As discussed above, having a plurality of sensors as opposed to one, and having those sensors tripped upon detection, is an obvious expedient for further sensor coverage, backup coverage, etc.

Oda et al. teaches means for determining if currency bills remain after a customer has completed operating the terminal and means for performing corrective action (col 28, lines 40+, col 29, lines 25+, and col 30, lines 20+).

Re the newly added claim limitations that the security camera captures an upper torso of the customer and a hand of the customer inserted into said currency bill receptacle in one image, the Examiner notes that Oda et al. teaches such limitations (col 7, lines 1+ which teach that the image of the face 14 and the hand 23 are captured in a single image frame of the camera. As shown in FIG. 4 and FIG. 13+, the image of the face also includes the upper torso. As Oda et al. suggests that placement and the number of cameras is within the ordinary skill in the art, for expected results, the Examiner notes that therefore placing/using a single a camera, as disclosed by Oda et al., in an alternative location (within the bill receptacle), as opposed the camera placement of Oda et al. (FIG. 7, 34, 1) would have been within the ordinary skill in the art for the reasons already discussed above. Further, as discussed above, as the camera of Oda et al. is in a described location is able to obtain a hand, head, and upper torso in a single image frame, based on orientation of the camera/optics/mirrors, the Examiner notes that it would have been well within the ordinary skill in the art that alternative placement of the camera, including within the bill receptacle along with associated mirrors/optics could obtain the

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same effect, because capturing such portions of the user, are important aspects of a user for visual confirmation/security as discussed by Oda et al., and relocating the camera and associated optics from the top of the ATM to the bottom of the ATM (bill receptacle) would still enable the claimed imaging as the rearrangements of parts to obtain the desired result are within the ordinary skill in the art.

Fujioka teaches a shutter 6.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Oda et al. with those of Fujioka for security/protection/safety.

Re claim 4 and 9, the Examiner notes that Oda et al. teaches (col 28, lines 40+ and col 29, lines 35+) monitoring for the presence of users in front of the ATM after a transaction. If the users are not present, an alarm is sounded three times. If the users have forgotten to pull out the card, bankbook, banknote, etc., even after the alarm, the CPU cancels the transaction processing and takes in the card, bankbook, banknote, etc. This is broadly interpreted as corrective action being taken, as discussed above. Though there is no time counting recited, the Examiner notes it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a time counting means to give the user a set amount of time to respond to the alarm, or alternatively, that the sounding of the alarm three times can be interpreted as time counting means as it gives the user time to respond (predetermined time corresponding to three alarms sounds. The Examiner notes that it would have been obvious that when banknotes are dispensed that the shutter is opened, in order for one to withdraw the banknotes. Further, Oda et al. teaches (col 30, lines 20+) that in the case that a card, banknote, bankbook, etc. are detected, a timer is started and

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images are taken to determine if the user is still present. If the bankbook/banknote/coin, etc. are still present after about 30 seconds, the CPU cancels the transaction and takes in the card, bankbook, banknote, etc. This is interpreted as time counting means for counting the time after the bill receptacle is opened by the shutter (which corresponds to completion of the transaction/dispensing of currency), and that the images are captured after a predetermined time period without the sensors in the receptacle having been triggered (the hand sensors for example are not triggered because no hand was inserted to remove the banknotes/card/etc.). Such steps enhance security.

Re claims 5-8 and 10-15, Oda et al. teaches separate security cameras 217 and 218, and as discussed above, a separate camera in the receptacle as well. The Examiner notes that the cameras 217 and 218 capture non-overlapping ranges/independent images, as one captures facial images, the other captures hand images. Further, as discussed above, insertion of a camera into the receptacle to capture hand entry in there would also be interpreted as an independent image/non-overlapping.

Re claim 16, the limitation have been discussed above.

Re claim 17, Oda et al. teaches that if a threshold of time is exceeded, that the bills are taken back into the machine and images are captured. Oda et al. only teaches one threshold for activation of both steps of taking back bills and image capture. However, as Oda et al. teaches that if the users have forgotten to take out the banknotes, an alarm sounds three times, then the machine takes back the card/money, cancelling the transaction, and then captures image data (FIG. 33), Oda et al. teaches the same order/sequence of steps as claimed. The Examiner notes that adding an additional time threshold is mere duplication of a working element, known in the art, such duplication

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being recognized as within the ordinary skill in the art. Adding an additional threshold is merely applying a known technique to a known device/system/method to yield predictable results, not unexpected results. As such, it is not seen as a product of innovation, but merely a product of ordinary skill in the art. Supplying an additional time threshold to accomplish that which has been previously accomplished with a single disclosed time threshold is therefore seen as an obvious expedient/matter of design choice.

Re claims 19-20, the limitations have been discussed above.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Re the applicants argument that the prior art does not teach the hand and upper torso being captured, the Examiner disagrees and notes that Oda et al. teaches a single image frame with hand and upper torso (as discussed above). The Examiner has interpreted that a torso is the trunk of the human body/the part without the extremities/head. As Oda et al. teaches part of the upper chest captured, this is interpreted as the upper torso, and the head and hand are also shown (see above Office Action).
5. Re the Applicants argument that the camera captures an image without the sensors being triggered, the Examiner notes that this appears to be what Oda et al. teaches, as Oda et al. teaches that the banknote/bankbook/coin are taken back into the ATM if the sensors do not detect a hand/the banknote/bankbook/coin are not removed. In the case of

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non-removal, a sensor would not be triggered, and that is when the ATM takes the items inside, for security.

Additional Remarks

6. The Examiner notes that the claim limitations in claim 1, regarding the first and second image capturing does not require that the images are taken of the same person or even during the same transaction during subsequent steps of a single ATM transaction by a user. Further, the Examiner notes that the means for determining if the currency bills remain in the bill receptacle after the customer has completed operating the terminal does not require that the bills remaining be part of/after the second image is captured, and could be a separate situation all together, since claim 3, line 2 for example recites/provides antecedent basis for “currency bills” and therefore the means for determining and means for performing do not need be performed on the bills left after bills are detected after removal by the first sensor, and hence could just be part of a separate transaction. The Examiner notes that if such limitations are desired, that the first and second images are captured in a single transaction of an ATM by a single user and that the means for determining and means for performing are performed based on the remaining bills, in the same transaction as the first and second image capturing, that such limitations need to be positively recited in the claim.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel I. Walsh whose telephone number is (571) 272-2409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Paik can be reached on (571) 272-2404. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel I Walsh/
Examiner
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